

(Photo left to right – David Plitt, Investigator E.E. Ortiz, Officer K. De La Cruz and Officer A.M. Acker)



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News Release

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Durham Police Officers Rescue Two Women from Submerged Vehicle

DURHAM, NC - Three Durham police officers and a police applicant rescued two women from a sinking car in a water retention pond Wednesday afternoon on South Alston Avenue.

Officers were dispatched at 2:20 p.m. to the call about a car in a pond in the 4500 block of South Alston Avenue near N.C. 54 Highway. Edwoe Mante was driving a Honda and was attempting to turn into the library parking lot at 4505 South Alston Avenue when she hit a tree and then went into the pond, officers said.

Mante and a pregnant passenger in her car – Maude Boateng – were trapped in the vehicle, which was sinking into the pond, when Investigator E.E. Ortiz and Officers K. De La Cruz and A.M. Acker arrived on the scene. The officers dove into the pond and attempted to rescue the women. A police applicant – David Plitt of Winston-Salem – who was riding with Officer De La Cruz also dove into the pond to assist the officers.

The officers were able to free both women from the vehicle within minutes and help them to safety. Neither woman suffered serious injuries, but Ms. Boateng was taken to the hospital to be checked out.

The Honda was completely submerged in the water shortly after the women were rescued.